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writer in designating the constructors and managers of those great national highways as robbers and plunderers of the United States Treasury. The so called "trusts" which continue to spring into existence, to prey upon "the fat of the land" all over the country, he does not directly appear to condemn or defend; but his sole purpose seems to be to defend the gentlemen connected with the Pacific railroads. He does this in an attractive manner, by entertaining the readers of the NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW with a liberal supply of anecdotes and jokes not altogether the newest. It seems to me that this is trifling with one of the most serious questions, and the one great question in which the people are all practically interested, and severely in earnest. I am not one of those who believe that "all property is robbery," nor that corporations should be made the scapegoats of "loose denunciation." On the contrary, I maintain that corporations have played leading parts—the star parts—on the great stage of our country's development and progress. Let justice be done them. Nevertheless it may be said, with "reverential calm," that about nineteen out of every twenty of the adult population of this country firmly believe that there has been improper speculation, fraudulent dealing, and in a large, general and universal sense, wholesale robbery in the construction and management of the Pacific railroads. I think the evidence sustains this. This universal sentiment and belief among all classes of our people is not wrong. "*Vox populi vox Dei.*" Historically, the universal voice of a people has always, in its principal stream, been distinctly an evolution of truth and a reliable standard of justice. And I am glad to be reassured that "Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska and several other States" have begun to control the corporations in their several jurisdictions, and I hope the time may soon come when we shall be able to do the same here in Pennsylvania. Whenever the people's trusts are being violated and abused by those to whom they have been delegated, whether they be legislatures, judges, executives or corporations, the most effective weapons to arouse the people are by "glowing periods," "tingling denunciations" and "lurid rhetoric." These have ever been the weapons of revolution, without arms and without bloodshed, and Mr. Bromley has no just cause to complain so bitterly because Professor Swing and myself have tried to invoke them in a good cause. It is to be regretted that Mr. Bromley did not confine himself to the questions at issue, *ex animo*, and if not to the issue, then much worth reading could have been said in favor of corporations generally, even if he had been obliged to exclude the Pacific railroads from his article as he did the "Trusts."

W. M. RAPSHER.

## VII.

### SIBERIA AND "GEORGEISM."

IN the July number, Mr. G. T. Ferris calls attention to the following extract from George Kennan's "Siberian" article, said extract, in Mr. Ferris' opinion, showing the *practical workings* of Mr. Henry George's single tax upon relative land values :

"With a few exceptions all of the land in Siberia belongs to the crown. The village communes enjoy the usufruct of it, but they have no legal title, and cannot dispose of it nor reduce any part of it to individual ownership. All they have the power to do is to divide it up among their members by periodical allotments, and to give to each head of a family a sort of tenancy at will. Every time there is a new allotment the several tracts of arable land held by the crown may change tenants. So that if an individual should build a house or a barn upon the tract of which he was the temporary occupant, he might, and probably would, be forced, sooner or later, to

abandon it. The result of this system of land tenure and this organization of society is to segregate the whole population in villages, and to leave all of the intervening land unsettled."

Either Mr. Ferris does not fully understand the "George Theory" or he failed to notice that in the above extract from Mr. Kennan there is lacking one of the essential elements of Mr. George's plan, *i. e.*, the occupant of land shall retain undisturbed possession, so long as he complies with the conditions prescribed by the law in the case. Under such conditions as Mr. Kennan notices, no one would care to improve property; under the George theory improvements would be encouraged.

EDWARD QUINCY NORTON.

## VIII.

### THE DEATH INSTINCT IN ANIMALS.

IN a recent number of the NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW the question is suggested whether animals are subject to premonitions of death.

Years ago I was staying at a farm-house where it was the custom every evening to drive a small herd of cows from the pasture to a lot near the barn. It was decided one day to kill one of the number, a yearling, whose mother also belonged to the herd. The calf was accordingly left in the lot, while the rest were driven as usual to the pasture. No sooner had the butcher slain his victim than there could be distinctly heard from the pasture, half a mile away, the mournful lowing of the mother, the other cows occasionally joining in what could be described only as a wail. The circumstance interested me very much, and I walked over to the pasture. Through thirty years that pathetic picture of maternal grief has remained with me! It seemed to me that there was the actual sobbing of a bursting heart, and to my childish eyes there were tears moistening the face of the poor, gentle, sorrowful creature before me.

Years afterward my children had a pet cat which it was discovered had now and then violent convulsions. We asked a young lad to shoot her. I went with him into the garden where Puss lay on the grass in the sunshine; the lad walked behind me with a parlor rifle. She was always gentle and rarely shunned any one, but so soon as she saw me she stretched herself backward with a most unearthly cry and looked straight into the mouth of the weapon which ended her life.

We owned also a magnificent St. Bernard dog which became in time a wonder to many in the way of what I must call mental development. He was accustomed, summer and winter, to come into the sitting-room after tea and lie for a while on a rug under the gaslight. At a given signal he would retire at once to the back yard. One night, however, he was reluctant to go—reluctant even to resistance. I coaxed, then forced him, and went to the door with him. He stood outside in a hesitating way, and as I closed the door turned and looked me full in the face with an intense expression of mingled reproach and affection which communicated to me an inexplicable sense of foreboding ill, and the remembrance of which still brings a pang to my heart. When the door closed I heard him leap over the low front gate, and we never saw him again. Some boys out hunting on the following day became frightened at meeting him in the woods, and shot him.

L. H. CRAIG.

## IX.

### THE TRACKS OF A GOD.

Two travelers in Asia, as the story is related, lost the camel which they used for carrying burdens. Meeting a native they inquired if he had seen a stray camel